

**National Agricultural Statistics Service, Pennsylvania Field Office**

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Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

**Week Ending September 17, 2006****Issued weekly, April-November****Released September 18, 2006, 4 pm***This report can be found on the Internet at**http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Pennsylvania/Publications/Crop_Progress_and_Condition/index.asp*

Fair Week for Field Work: There wasn't much harvesting done last week due to the low temperatures and rainfall that continued throughout the week. Farmers continued cutting corn silage and trying to prepare for fall seedings. Despite the weather apple harvests continued to progress, and the outlook remains positive for this year's crop. Overall, 3 days were suitable for field work and principal farm activities included cutting silage, spreading manure, preparing for fall seedings, and harvesting apples, peaches, high moisture corn and tobacco.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending September 17, 2006

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
0	5	64	31

Crops: The rain and cool temperatures last week allowed many farmers the time to prepare for fall grain seedings and late harvests. Ninety-seven percent of the corn has entered the dough stage, compared to 96 percent last year and 83 percent for the 5-year average. Eighty-five percent has reached the dent stage. This number is seven percentage points ahead of the 5-year average of 78 percent. Last week 44 percent of the corn crop was mature, which is behind last year at this time and ahead of the five year average. Currently, 67 percent of the corn crop is in good or excellent condition. This is 2 percent behind last week at this time. Corn silage harvesting picked up from the previous week at 67 percent harvested, which puts it ahead of the five year average by 12 percentage points. It looks as if last weeks' rain has helped the early planted soybeans. Seventy-four percent of the soybeans are in good or excellent condition. Potato harvesting was at 47 percent last week, which is 14 percentage points behind last year at this time and 3 percentage points behind the five year average. Tobacco harvesting continued last week at 81 percent harvested. Although tobacco harvesting started off really slow, it's back on course with the five year average. Last week the alfalfa third cutting, at 95 percent, was ahead of the 5-year average which is 91 percent. In addition, the fourth cutting was still behind schedule with the averages, at 38 percent. Timothy/Clover second cutting continued to progress at a steady pace last week at 89 percent. The quality of hay made last week was reported as 9 percent poor, 37 percent fair, 46 percent good, and 8 percent excellent.

Apple harvesting continues to progress at a nice pace at 49 percent. This is 10 percent higher than the 5-year average. The continued moisture as allowed apple conditions to remain constant, with 7 percent fair, 68 percent good, and 25 percent excellent.

Livestock: Pastures remained green last week although mud in confined areas may become a problem because of the rain. Some farmers are hoping the rain will subside long enough to allow the pasture to green up. Stored feed is still used for the livestock, as pastures have had very little productivity so far. Pasture condition was reported as the following: 8 percent very poor, 17 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 47 percent good, and 3 percent excellent.

U.S. as of September 10, 2006: Temperatures were below normal across most of the Nation, including the Ohio Valley, and southern Corn Belt, while above-normal temperatures prevailed in the northern Corn Belt. Conditions were mostly dry across the Corn Belt, but crop conditions and soil moisture levels held steady.

Corn: Acreage at or beyond the dent stage advanced to 91 percent, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 10 points ahead of normal. Progress was ahead of normal in all states but furthest ahead in the northern Corn Belt. Maturation, at 34 percent, was the same as last year but 2 points ahead of normal. Growers had harvested 6 percent of their acreage, the same as last year and the 5-year average. Harvest was underway in all areas except the northern Corn Belt, and Ohio.

Soybeans: Acreage dropping leaves or beyond advanced to 27 percent, 7 points behind last year but the same as normal. The crop developed rapidly in the northern Great Plains and adjacent areas of the Corn Belt. Progress trailed behind normal in the central and eastern Corn Belt and the central Great Plains.

Winter Wheat: Growers had sown 9 percent of their 2007 acreage, compared with 11 percent last year and 12 percent for the 5-year average. Planting was well underway in the Great Plains but had not yet begun in the Corn Belt and Ohio River Valley.

Small Grains: The barley harvest advanced to 97 percent complete, 3 points ahead of last year and 6 points ahead of normal. After their crop lagged behind normal through most of the season, growers caught up to their 5-year average harvest pace. Harvest progress was ahead of normal in all other states.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 17, 2006

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 17, 2006					
	Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	70	54	63	-2	0.91	5	18.32	-2.49	75	2,544	226	4,115
Franklin	76	53	63	1	1.86	3	31.94	8.77	82	2,420	257	4,032
Meadville	73	51	62	1	2.12	5	25.48	2.40	77	2,355	372	3,940
Mercer	75	51	62	-2	1.54	4	32.04	9.99	78	2,298	156	3,898
Springboro	75	49	62	-3	1.05	5	28.72	8.35	83	2,157	-132	3,705
Warren	75	54	62	0	1.08	4	33.24	10.04	82	2,216	118	3,793
North Central												
Bradford Region	70	48	58	0	1.83	4	27.51	4.28	85	1,770	241	3,286
Emporium	75	53	61	2	1.55	4	31.91	8.83	82	2,256	530	3,870
Kane	73	49	58	2	2.08	4	28.38	4.78	74	1,662	163	3,170
Laporte	67	46	56	-6	0.65	4	32.19	10.80	85	1,939	-209	3,496
Lock Haven	74	55	62	-1	0.24	2	27.12	6.06	68	2,583	306	4,228
Port Allegany	74	50	59	1	1.18	4	26.39	4.46	76	1,923	238	3,464
Renovo	76	50	62	-2	1.02	4	28.26	7.20	81	2,375	98	4,013
Ridgway	76	51	61	2	1.84	4	29.15	6.07	77	1,963	237	3,530
Stevenson Dam	75	56	63	5	1.41	4	26.91	3.83	75	2,432	706	4,064
Towanda	70	45	60	-2	0.69	4	23.09	5.31	73	2,369	205	3,968
Wellsboro	68	46	56	-3	0.61	4	23.08	5.24	73	1,840	213	3,380
Williamsport	76	55	63	-2	0.32	4	26.84	6.10	68	2,785	275	4,430
Northeast												
Hawley	79	42	59	-2	2.35	4	33.58	13.35	65	2,105	247	3,667
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	75	48	62	-2	1.91	3	25.55	5.92	67	2,563	181	4,186
Susquehanna	73	43	59	0	1.51	4	32.48	10.93	79	2,197	432	3,774
West Central												
Butler	73	52	63	-1	1.45	4	24.29	2.32	76	2,374	133	3,997
New Castle	78	53	64	1	2.06	4	27.43	7.44	75	2,634	391	4,268
Slippery Rock	77	53	64	4	1.40	5	29.94	8.56	83	2,469	450	4,092
Central												
Altoona/Blair	77	54	62	-2	0.19	5	19.70	0.66	70	2,480	95	4,119
DuBois	72	51	60	-2	1.47	5	25.96	3.89	89	2,157	88	3,747
Lewistown	77	54	63	-2	0.21	2	25.77	5.29	66	2,742	125	4,395
Middletown	78	57	64	-4	1.10	5	24.97	4.68	57	3,211	261	4,881
Prince Gallitzi	75	52	61	-1	1.10	3	24.30	-0.23	69	2,095	173	3,683
Selinsgrove	72	55	62	-3	0.77	4	30.37	9.15	70	2,669	219	4,314
State College	71	54	61	-3	0.16	4	20.60	1.36	67	2,622	266	4,272
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	76	47	64	-3	2.69	4	29.47	7.23	69	2,893	194	4,547
Lehighton	79	46	62	-3	2.65	4	30.31	8.25	79	2,584	-22	4,219
Matamoras	75	43	59	-5	2.05	3	28.29	5.97	73	2,293	-64	3,888
Mt_Pocono	71	40	58	0	4.06	4	36.46	12.73	84	2,086	466	3,655
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	75	56	64	0	2.47	6	22.74	2.42	72	2,790	392	4,449
Derry	76	54	63	-1	1.68	2	27.42	6.20	67	2,418	153	4,045
Myersdale	78	48	60	-4	0.32	4	23.51	0.43	81	1,855	-377	3,412
Mount Pleasant	76	53	64	2	1.90	3	25.13	1.00	72	2,371	345	3,993
Pittsburgh Intl	76	53	64	-2	1.50	4	18.27	-0.87	65	2,702	192	4,349
Connellsville	82	55	66	1	1.86	3	21.80	-0.80	87	2,753	198	4,399
Waynesburg	80	55	65	2	1.78	3	19.23	-1.74	65	2,509	181	4,149
South Central												
Biglerville	78	56	63	-5	1.19	6	25.01	5.96	67	2,937	55	4,604
Everett	76	51	60	-4	0.49	5	19.70	1.19	75	2,037	-339	3,674
Hanover	78	53	62	-5	1.82	7	22.59	3.54	67	2,897	15	4,558
Harrisburg_AP	78	58	64	-4	0.85	5	24.34	4.05	64	3,142	185	4,812
South Mountain	76	52	60	-5	1.30	6	28.62	9.58	71	2,339	-39	3,966
York	80	52	63	-4	1.94	6	17.98	-2.54	60	2,886	18	4,541
Southeast												
Green Lane	76	49	64	-2	2.95	4	33.06	11.50	67	2,957	376	4,615
Hamburg	77	51	63	1	1.75	4	29.62	4.84	76	2,988	626	4,644
West_Chester	79	46	63	-5	1.57	3	28.18	4.83	57	2,852	-11	4,504
Lancaster	78	55	65	-2	1.47	6	28.46	6.76	72	3,032	304	4,696
Neshaminy Falls	76	46	63	-3	1.15	4	29.33	4.32	61	2,820	124	4,480
New Holland	80	55	64	-2	2.38	4	23.62	1.92	65	3,054	326	4,714
Philadelphia	80	54	67	-2	0.94	4	27.39	6.16	55	3,520	394	5,207
Philadelphia NE	79	51	67	-3	1.32	3	28.88	7.65	60	3,454	328	5,136
Reading	77	51	64	-2	1.41	4	26.79	3.60	62	3,080	398	4,741
Valley Forge Na	80	45	65	-4	2.87	4	33.82	11.30	69	3,021	-9	4,683
Willow Grove	77	48	65	-2	1.22	3	23.36	-1.65	53	3,132	436	4,804

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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Internet Reporters' Comments, By County:

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney (FSA) - Adams County received some beneficial rainfall throughout the past week. Over last weekend some areas of the county had 1 inch of rainfall and Wednesday the York Springs area received 1 inch. No heavy downpours during these rains so the soil is soaking up the rain. Daytime temperatures have been much cooler and cloudy days also occurred this week. Nighttime temperatures have been high 50's to low 60's.

Corn silage continues to be harvested. Some areas that received rainfall last weekend created a smeary mess in the fields but choppers continued to run. Some of the later planted corn is now being chopped for silage. Corn for grain continues to be monitored for drying down conditions. Some ears have corn smut and ears are not filled out.

Soybeans that were planted early are now starting to change colors. The soybeans are benefiting from the recent rainfalls and bean pods are filling out.

Apples continue to be harvested with a decent crop being reported. Peach harvest will be completed this week.

Soil has been tilled in preparation for fall seedings of barley and wheat which will start now once it dries out a little.

Some new seedings of hay have now emerged.

Overall the crops look ok in the county.

ADAMS COUNTY, Thomas Kerr - The week was cool and the showers held down the hay making, but high moisture corn harvest is doing well. The pastures are doing better now. Apple harvest is well under way and looks as if the yield will approach average or a little better.

BUCKS COUNTY, Darrell Tribue, (FSA) - There was rainfall in excess of 4 inches in some areas. This will delay field work for several days.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little (FSA) - It has been cool and damp. Once the fields dry up potato picking will be in full swing. Harvesting corn silage has begun.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker - There was cool, damp weather much of the week, but only 1/2" in my gage. Silo filling continues. We need some dry days to get fall seeding completed.

COLUMBIA COUNTY, Dan McCarty (AgChoice) - There was some rain during the week. We need some degree days to finish soybeans.

CRAWFORD COUNTY, Ron McCorkle (NRCS) - Wet weather has slowed farm work to a minimum. Producers are anxiously waiting for some dry weather to start on corn silage but for now, the equipment is parked. The cool wet weather has helped with pasture regrowth; however, mud is also becoming a problem in confined areas.

DAUPHIN COUNTY, Paul H. Craig (EXT) - Rain at the end of the week put a damper on forage harvesting plans. If only the weather man could be a little more accurate in predictions??? Crops are finishing off for the growing season. Corn silage harvest is winding down and high moisture corn harvest is taking place as soil conditions allow.

There was lots of manure spreading on silage ground. Soybean crops look pretty good, some diseases on the leaves. Plans being made for fall planting of small grains at this time.

FOREST COUNTY, Thomas Tanner (FSA) - The counties Clarion/Venango/Forest/Warren have had several inches of rain in the past week. Fields are very wet and put a hold on harvesting. Producers reporting crop damage to potatoes from the rains. Silage corn is ready for harvest and too wet to get on fields.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill (EXT) - Need some sunshine to get cover crops in and begin planting small grains.

LANCASTER COUNTY, BURELL WHITWORTH JR (NRCS) - For those that got their small grains and cover crops planted. They are begging the fields to green up with all the rain. Pastures are looking great. Harvesting of crops are challenging with all the rain.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, John Lohr (FSA) - A rainy, cool week made for messy corn silage harvest but excellent conditions for new alfalfa seedings and grass growth. Growers are hoping for a few warmer, sunny days to help with corn and soybean maturities.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 17, 2006

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	27	35	28
Corn, dough	97	96	93
Corn, dent	85	89	78
Corn, mature	44	49	37
Corn, harvested	10	13	12
Corn silage, harvested	67	69	55
Barley, planted	12	42	21
Wheat, planted	10	10	8
Tobacco, harvested	81	94	87
Potatoes, harvested	47	61	50
Alfalfa, 3rd cutting	95	97	91
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	38	51	45
Timothy clover, 2nd cutting	89	94	90
Apples, harvested	49	31	39

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 17, 2006

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	3	5	25	50	17
Soybeans	1	5	20	50	24
Quality of hay made	0	9	37	46	8
Pasture	8	17	25	47	3
Apples	0	0	7	68	25

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